

THREE STUDENTS FROM YINGHUA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL EARN TOP PRIZES AT TZU CHI CUP CHINESE SPEECH CONTEST



Students from YingHua International School: Chinese-English Immersion School of Princeton. From Left: Rebecca Sorensen (West Windsor – 4th place), Madeline Epstein (West Windsor – 1st place), Katherine Guo (Lawrenceville), Stephanie Tan (Metuchen), Lucia Marcogliese (Warren), Melanie Tan (Metuchen), Megan Wong (Manalapan), Jason Wong (Manalapan), and Shawn Liu (Hunterdon).

PRINCETON, NJ: Three students from the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes of YingHua International School: English-Chinese Immersion School of Princeton competed and won awards at the Tzu Chi Cup Chinese Speech Contest in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, on April 30, 2016. The contest drew competitors from all parts of New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C. Madeline Epstein, ten years old from West Windsor, New Jersey, took home the 1st place trophy for her speech on the topic of Helping Others by shoveling snow for neighbors that had yet to move into their home. YingHua student Lucia Marcogliese of Warren earned second place honors, and Rebecca Sorensen of West Windsor placed fourth. As all three do not come from Chinese speaking families, they competed in the Chinese as a Second Language category. They wrote original speeches and delivered their speeches in perfectly-accented

Mandarin Chinese in front of a panel of six judges. Each contestant for the Cup Contest was recommended by the school they attend. The contestants wrote about one of five topics: perseverance, helping others, environmental protection, love, and giving.

The objectives of the Tzu Chi Cup Chinese Speech Competition, now in its 10th year, is to help students build confidence, to elevate their wisdom during the preparation process, and to enable both the speakers and the audience to immerse in a kind and compassionate atmosphere. The Tzu Chi Foundation will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. Tzu Chi volunteers around the world hope to pave the paths of love and ever-lasting compassion.

YingHua International School: English-Chinese Immersion School of Princeton, established in 2007, is

central New Jersey's only Mandarin Immersion early years and elementary school (ages 2.5 years through 5th grade). Students at YingHua study all of their regular school subjects in the language of Mandarin, taught by native Chinese speakers. In this way, the students, who may or may not come from Chinese heritage families, learn Mandarin very quickly and become highly proficient in reading, writing, and speaking Mandarin. By the 2016-2017 academic year, YHIS will also offer bilingual middle school grades for 6th through 8th grade students. YHIS is accredited by the MSA-CESS and is a candidate school with the International Baccalaureate Organization. YHIS will be moving to Kingston, New Jersey, in August 2016. Contact Kristin Epstein, Director of Admissions, at info@yhiss.org or (609) 375-8015 for information or tours.